(iv) Finalisation of complaints referred to by Deptt. of Pension and Pensioners Welfare — 90 days.

(v) Submission of status report on complaints received from Cabinet Secretariat — 45 days.

(vi) Representations received from the Members of the Standing Committee of Parliament on Railways:—

(a) where the information is available in Board's Office itself — 10 days.

(b) where the information has to be collected from the Railways — 30 days.

Menace of touts in the Railways

2103. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Touts business continues unabated" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated the 5th June, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Railway Administration to check the menace of the touts and help the poor passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item has highlighted the operation of touts in cornering of reserved accommodation in trains originating from Delhi and selling the same at premium.

(c) Regular and surprise checks are conducted by the Commercial and Vigilance departments with the assistance of Railway Protection Force/Government Railway Police staff to check the activities of touts and other anti-social elements in and around the reservation offices. The drives against touts were intensified and during the year 1997-98, 324 touts were apprehended by Northern Railway. Action has been taken against them under the provisions of Railway Act, 1989. Railway staff found involved in or abetting such activities are severely taken up for penal action.

Arrest of Chairman and Members of Railway Recruitment Board

2104. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman, Railway Recruitment Board has been recently arrested alongwith the other Members of the Board on the charges of taking bribes from candidates seeking jobs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether antecedents of the members of the Board were not verified before appointing them and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Recently a raid was conducted by the CBI at Jaipur, in which huge amount was recovered from the then Chairman, Member Secretary and other non-official persons who were associated with Interview Committees. The then Chairman, Member Secretary and a non-official person associated with Interview Committees were taken into custody by the CBI, who has registered a case for detailed investigation into the alleged malpractices in recruitment of various posts by Railway Recruitment Board, Ajmer.

(c) Railway Recruitment Board consists of a Chairman and a Member Secretary. As per Recruitment Rules, Chairman and Member Secretary are to be selected by UPSC and before their regular appointments then antecedents are verified. In the past there had been occasions when vacancies of the post of Chairman arose, persons were appointed on adhoc basis as Chairmen and in such cases verification of antecedents was not done. Member Secretaries are appointed on adhoc basis from serving Railway officers and before doing so, vigilance clearance is obtained. In order to protect the interests of the candidates belonging to SC/ST, Minority and OBC communities, non-officials belonging to these communities used to be associated with Interview Committees. Even though they were generally known as non-official members, they were not members of the Railway Recruitment Boards and hence verification of their antecedents was not done.

इलाहाबाद जंक्शन स्टेशन पर सुविधाएं

2105. **श्री चुन्नी लाल चौधरी:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या इलाहाबाद जंक्शन स्टेशन पर सिविल लाइन साइड में साईकिल स्टैंड और स्कूटर स्टैंड की व्यवस्था

को समाप्त कर दिया गया है; यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ख) क्या इलाहाबाद जंक्शन स्टेशन पर सिविल लाइन साइड में पेयजल, रेल आरक्षण, रेलवे बुकिंग की व्यवस्था और प्रतीक्षालय में जल की व्यवस्था अभी तक नहीं की गई है?

रेल मंत्रालय, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय तथा योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) सिविल लाइन साइड, इलाहाबाद में साइकिल/स्कूटर ठेके को इस स्टेशन की सिविल लाइन साइड पर ढांचे में परिवर्तन संबंधी कार्य के कारण 7.1.98 को समाप्त कर दिया गया था।

(ख) सिविल लाइन साइड पर यात्रियों को पीने के पानी की सुविधा मुहैया कराने के लिए घड़ा, मटका/बोतल सहित वाटरमैन तैनात करके तदर्थ व्यवस्था की गई है। ढांचे में परिवर्तन संबंधी कार्य के पूरा होने के पश्चात् अन्य सुविधाएं मुहैया कराई जाएंगी।

उत्तर प्रदेश में रैक केन्द्र

2106. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश के मैदानी क्षेत्रों यथा महाराजगंज, पड़रौना, सिद्धार्थ नगर, आजमगढ़, भदौही, पीलीभीत, खीरी, फिरोजाबाद, बहराइच, हमीरपुर और बांदा नामक 12 जिलों में रैक केन्द्र नहीं हैं;

(ख) क्या इसके परिणामस्वरूप रसायनिक उर्वरकों के भंडारण और आपूर्ति में अत्यधिक कठिनाई होती है;

(ग) क्या उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने वर्ष 1997 में इन जिलों में "रैक केन्द्र" माल गाड़ी सुविधा उपलब्ध कराने के लिए कार्यपालक निदेशक (यातायात) को कोई प्रस्ताव अग्रेषित किया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो रैक केन्द्र कब तक खोले जाने की संभावना है और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

रेल मंत्रालय, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय तथा योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) रैक सम्हलाई प्वाइंटों का विकास करना एक सतत प्रक्रिया है। इन्हें परिचालनिक तथा यातायात आवश्यकताओं और सहायक अवसंरचना यथा पहुंच सड़क, भूमि, आदि की उपलब्धता के अनुसार विकसित किया जाता है। रैक सम्हलाई सुविधाएं आजमगढ़, पीलीभीत, लखीमपुर खेड़ी, बहराइच, पड़रौना, सिद्धार्थ, फिरोजाबाद, बांदा और बदायुं में मौजूद हैं। रैक सम्हलाई सुविधाएं भदौही, हमीरपुर और महाराजगंज में मौजूद नहीं हैं।

(ख) उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य को उर्वरक आंवटित और सप्लाई करने में केन्द्र सरकार को कोई कठिनाई नहीं है। उर्वरकों का अंतःराज्य वितरण और भण्डारण का निर्णय राज्य सरकार द्वारा लिया जाता है।

(ग) जी हां। उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार के कृषि सचिव ने दिनांक 7.10.98 के अपने पत्र के अंतर्गत उपरोलिखित स्टेशनों से इतर भदौही में रैक सम्हलाई प्वाइंट का प्रस्ताव किया था।

(घ) रैक सम्हलाई प्वाइंट का विकास करना एक सतत प्रक्रिया है। इन्हें परिचालनिक तथा यातायात आवश्यकताओं और सहायक अवसंरचना यथा पहुंच सड़क, भूमि, आदि की उपलब्धता के अनुसार विकसित किया जाता है। यातायात की मात्रा और परिचालनिक आवश्यकताओं की दृष्टि से भदौही, हमीरपुर और महाराजगंज में रैक सम्हलाई प्वाइंट का औचित्य नहीं है।

Loop line from Moynaguri to Goalpara

2107. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(c) whether Government are aware of a public demand of an alternative loop railway line from Moynaguri of West Bengal to Goalpara *via* Dhubri and Bilaripara Town of Assam; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) A survey for a new line from New Moinaguri-Mathabhanga-New Coochbehar to Jogighopa *via* Dhubri has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible after the survey report becomes available.

Improvements at Kurla Railway Terminal of Mumbai

2108. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government have submitted to the Central Government the proposals for making improvements at Kurla Railway Terminal (Central Railway) at Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the response of Central Government and when decisions on these proposals are likely to be taken and the work on the project expected to commence?